

Reich House
CH-754
La Plata, MD
Private

1929

Erected in 1929, the Elinor and Lee Reich House stands on a 3/4 acre lot on the west side of Washington Avenue and is a contributing resource in the National Register eligible historic district of La Plata (CH-326). Typical of pattern-book homes of the era, the 2 ½ story frame and stucco side-gable building includes subtle Prairie-style details. The dwelling is a representative example of La Plata's architectural development during the second quarter of the 20th century. As a contributing resource in the National Register eligible historic district (CH-326), the Reich House reflects the development of Washington Avenue as a distinct residential community.

In 1928, Elinor and Lee Reich purchased a lot recently subdivided from the original Matthews family farm known as the Hermitage (CH-47 NR). Lifelong educators, the Reich's taught at the McDonough Institute and were among the earliest teachers at La Plata's first consolidated grade and high school.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. CH-754

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Elinor and Lee Reich House
other Gyorda Property

2. Location

street and number 209 Washington Avenue not for publication
city, town La Plata vicinity
county Charles

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Charles County Commissioners
street and number 200 Baltimore Street PO Box 2150 telephone 301-396-5815
city, town La Plata state MD zip code 20646

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Charles County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 113/89
city, town La Plata liber 3114 folio 519

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
☐ Other

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	2 sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	3 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. CH-754

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Erected in 1929, the Elinor and Lee Reich House stands on a 3/4 acre lot on the west side of Washington Avenue and is a contributing resource in the National Register eligible historic district of La Plata (CH-326). Typical of pattern-book homes of the era, the 2 1/2 story frame and stucco side-gable building has subtle Prairie-style details. The double-pile main block includes prominent, centered shed-roof dormers on the front and rear elevations and a partially screened L-shaped shed-roof porch on the front and side elevations. An original one-story stucco ell addition is found on the rear elevation. In the late 20th century, a gable-roof addition was constructed adjoining the ell. Two early or original front-gable sheds also share the lot.

The dwelling faces east and includes an asphalt shingle roof a poured concrete foundation and a full basement. Replacement 1/1 windows are found throughout and are finished with aluminum clad square-edged wood trim. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles and the roofline is adorned with a boxed cornice and a 2-part friezeboard.

The front entrance is sheltered with an L-shaped porch supported by six Tuscan columns. The porch is supported with poured concrete piers and has wood tongue and groove flooring. The front elevation includes three bays on the first floor and two on the second. The entrance occupies the northernmost end-bay and includes a plate glass door with sidelights characteristic of the Prairie style. Two windows stand on the southernmost first-floor bays. The second story includes two centered windows as does the attic story dormer.

Moving counter-clockwise, the south elevation includes a prominent square brick chimney flue. A first-floor doorway provides access to the screened-in portion of the porch, which also shades one of the two first-floor windows. The second story includes two windows, while a single window lights the attic. The rear elevation includes two windows of differing sizes in the dormer. The second story has two windows on the exterior bays and a single small window on the center bay that lights the second story bathroom. The first floor includes two 1/1 windows on the main rear elevation wall next to the shed ell. The south elevation ell includes a single small window. A single attic-story window is found on the north elevation above three second-story and three first-floor windows. In both the first and second story, the center bays hold smaller windows which provide light to the interior stair.

The interior includes original floorplan, trim, doors, and floor. The first floor main block has an overall 4-room plan with an entranceway and stair passage in front of the kitchen occupying the northernmost bays, and a living room and dining room occupying the southernmost bays. The second story includes four bedrooms and a reworked bathroom. The dwelling was heated with radiator steam heat and includes 2 1/4" tongue and groove floors throughout with the exception of the entranceway which features unusual narrow 1 1/2" tongue and groove boards.

8. Significance

Inventory No. CH-754

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates	1929	Architect/Builder	Unknown
Construction dates	1929		

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register ☐ Maryland Register ☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

The Elinor and Lee Reich House is a representative example of La Plata's architectural development during the second quarter of the 20th century. As a contributing resource in the National Register eligible historic district (CH-326), the dwelling reflects the development of Washington Avenue as a distinct residential community. In 1928, Elinor and Lee Reich purchased a lot recently subdivided from the original Matthews family farm known as the Hermitage (CH-47 NR). Lifelong educators, the Reich's taught at the McDonough Institute and were among the earliest teachers at La Plata's first consolidated grade and high school.

The Town of La Plata began in 1873 as a stop along the Popes Creek Branch of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad. The railroad crossed the land of several local farms including the nearby Hermitage property (CH-47NR) owned by the Matthews family. Throughout the last quarter of the 19th century, the town continued to grow commercially and residentially and in 1896, La Plata replaced Port Tobacco as the county seat. The Town includes several distinct periods and areas of residential development. While building along the railroad tracks typify the architecture of late 19th century railroad towns, residences along St. Mary's and Washington Avenue, including the Reich House, illustrate the development of architectural styles from the first half of the 20th century.

Originally a farm lane leading to the Hermitage, Washington Avenue began to develop after the construction of the first courthouse in 1896. The Matthews family, owners of the Hermitage began to sell lots along the lane in the early 20th century. Dwellings were erected over the next four decades consisting of vernacular, wood frame Victorian-inspired buildings, followed by pattern-book type dwellings like the Reich House, and then Colonial Revival-influenced homes, and Bungalows. (1)

The Reich's were well known for their work in the field of education. The young couple had arrived in Charles County from Frederick, Maryland around 1910 to first teach at McDonough Institute, Charles County's first high school. The Reich's continued to teach at the Institute for 17 years of its 24 years, while renting a 2-story dwelling near their eventual home at 204 Washington Avenue. Mrs. Reich taught History, French, Art and Literature, and Manual Training for girls. Mr. Reich taught Commercial courses, Mathematics, and Manual Training for men. He served as vice-principal of the Institute in 1911 and became principal the following year. After the construction of La Plata High School, Lee Reich served as vice-principal beside his next door neighbor Milton Somers. Elinor taught high school English. The Reich's made this their home until Elinor's death in 1971. She named her next door neighbor Ethel Somers, her executor. (2)

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No CH-754

Name Elinor and Lee Reich House

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Endnotes

1) PAC Spero & Company. 1998. Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form for "La Plata Historic District" CH-326, Crownsville, Maryland; Maryland Historical Trust.

2) Jack D. Brown, et al. 1976. Charles County, Maryland, A History. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, South Hackensack, New Jersey: Custombook, Inc. Also, John M. Wearmouth. 1988. La Plata, Maryland 1888-1988: 100 Years, the Heart of Charles County. La Plata, Maryland: Town of La Plata.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. CH-754

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1.26

Acreage of historical setting 1.26

Quadrangle name La Plata

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Reich House is currently associated with Lot 2, Block A of a subdivision of the Hermitage Property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Hardy/Historic Preservation Planner

organization Charles County Planning

date 12/1/2002

street and number 200 Baltimore Street

telephone 301-396-5815

city or town La Plata

state MD zip code 20646

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032
410-514-7600



EAST ELEVATION

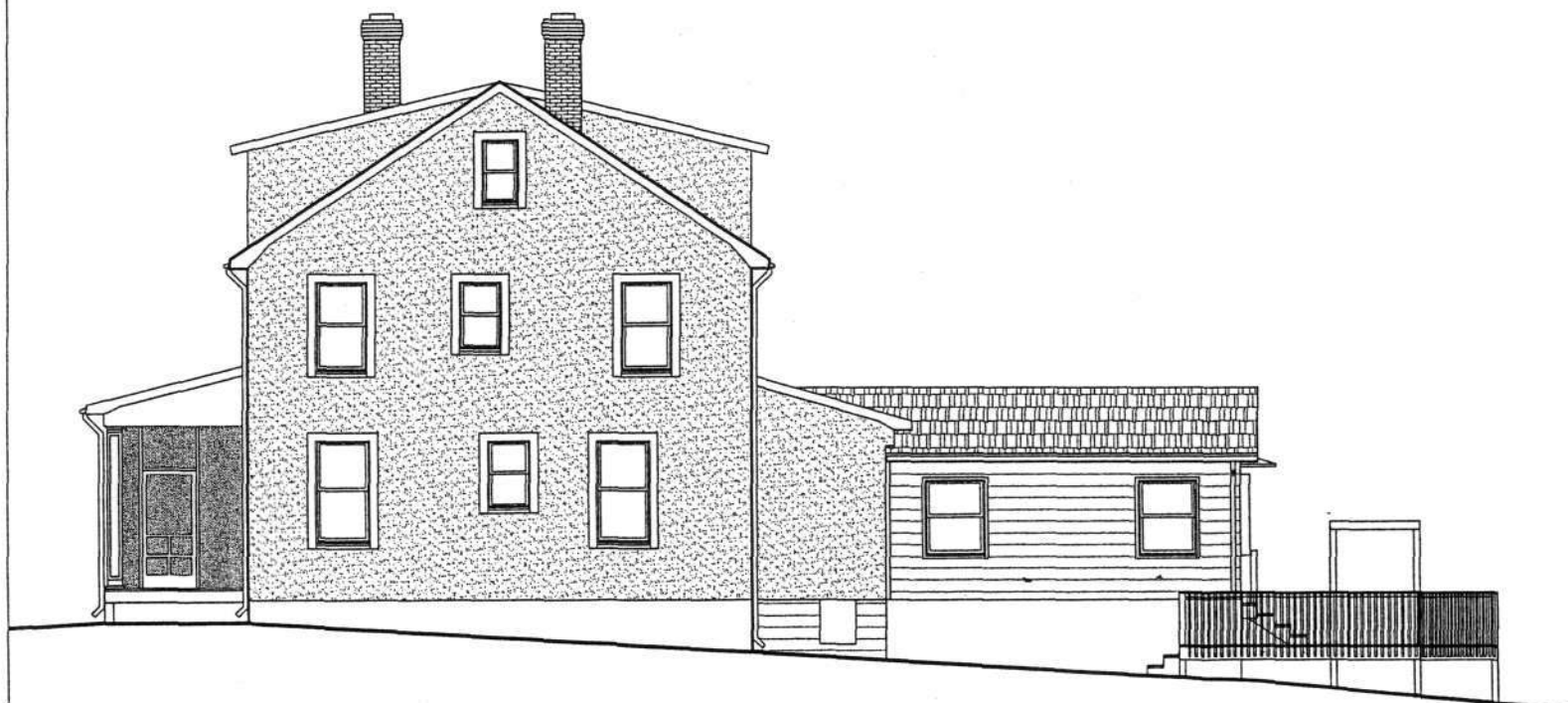
CH-754

A4
11
17.2003
08-08

R.L. LITTEN & ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS
300 CHARLES STREET, SUITE 4
P.O. BOX 1920, LA PLATA, MD 20646 (301) 934-1471

REICH HOUSE
209 WASHINGTON AVE.
LA PLATA, MARYLAND

CH-1754



NORTH ELEVATION

R.L. LITTEY & ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS
300 CHARLES STREET, SUITE 4
P.O. BOX 1620, LA PLATA, MD 20646 (301) 634-1471

REICH HOUSE
200 WASHINGTON AVE.
LA PLATA, MARYLAND

DL
ML
7.17.2008
08-08

A6



WEST ELEVATION

A5

DATE
BY
CHECKED
DATE

R.L. LITTEN & ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS
300 CHARLES STREET, SUITE 4
P.O. BOX 1920, LA PLATA, MD 20646 (301) 934-1471

REICH HOUSE
209 WASHINGTON AVE.
LA PLATA, MARYLAND

CH-754

CH-754

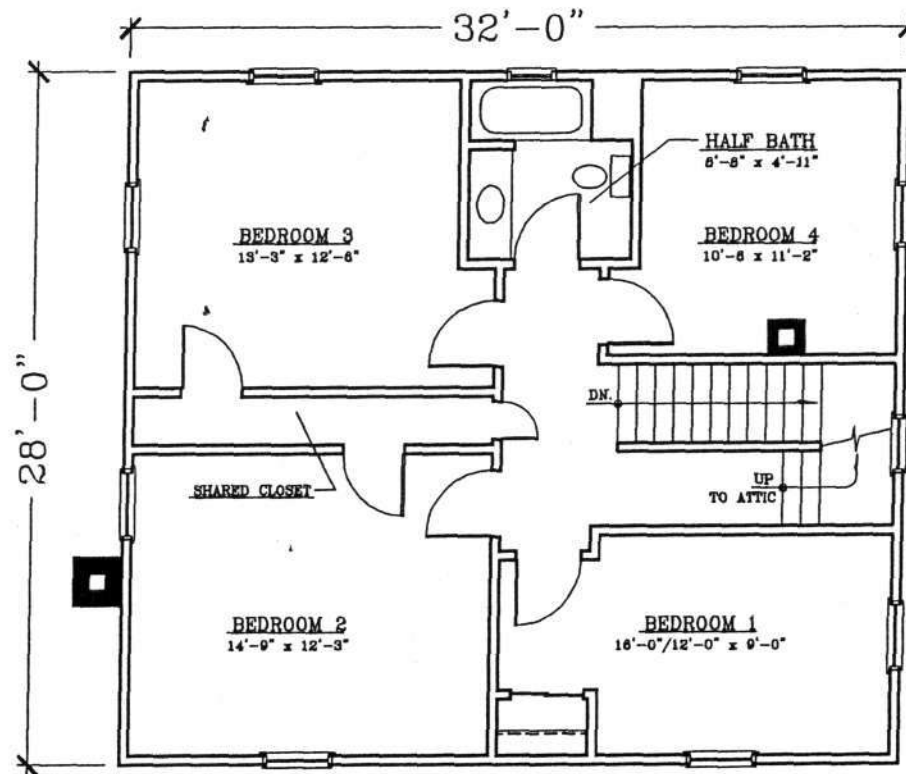


SOUTH ELEVATION

REICH HOUSE
200 WASHINGTON AVE
LA PLATA, MARYLAND

R.L. LITTEN & ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS
300 CHARLES STREET, SUITE 4
P.O. BOX 1020, LAPLATA, MD 20646 (301) 934-1471

15
16
747.8008
08-88
A7



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

A2

7/17/2003
08-46

R.L. LITTEN & ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS
300 CHARLES STREET, SUITE 4
P.O. BOX 1920, LAPLATA, MD 20646 (301) 934-1471

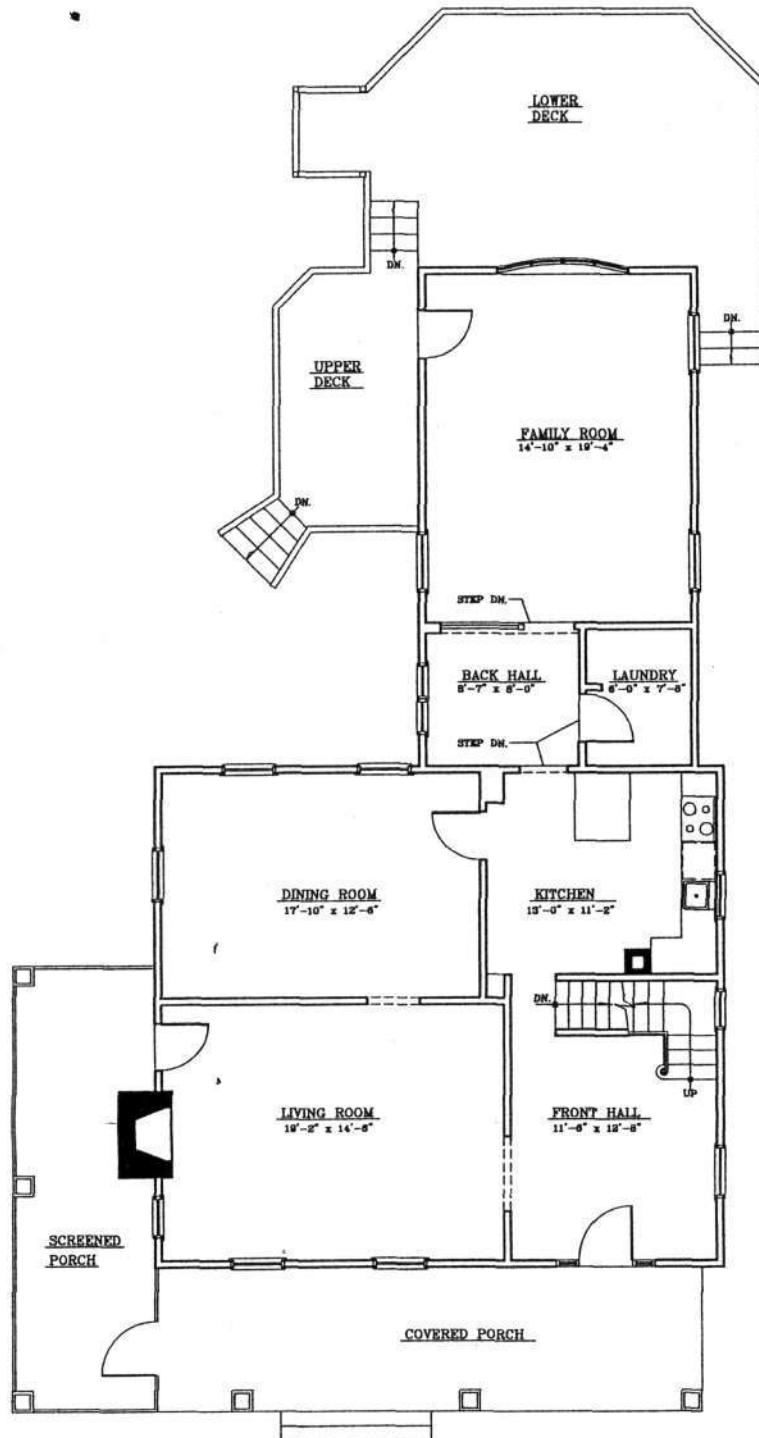
REICH HOUSE

209 WASHINGTON AVE.
LA PLATA, MARYLAND

CH-754

CH-754

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

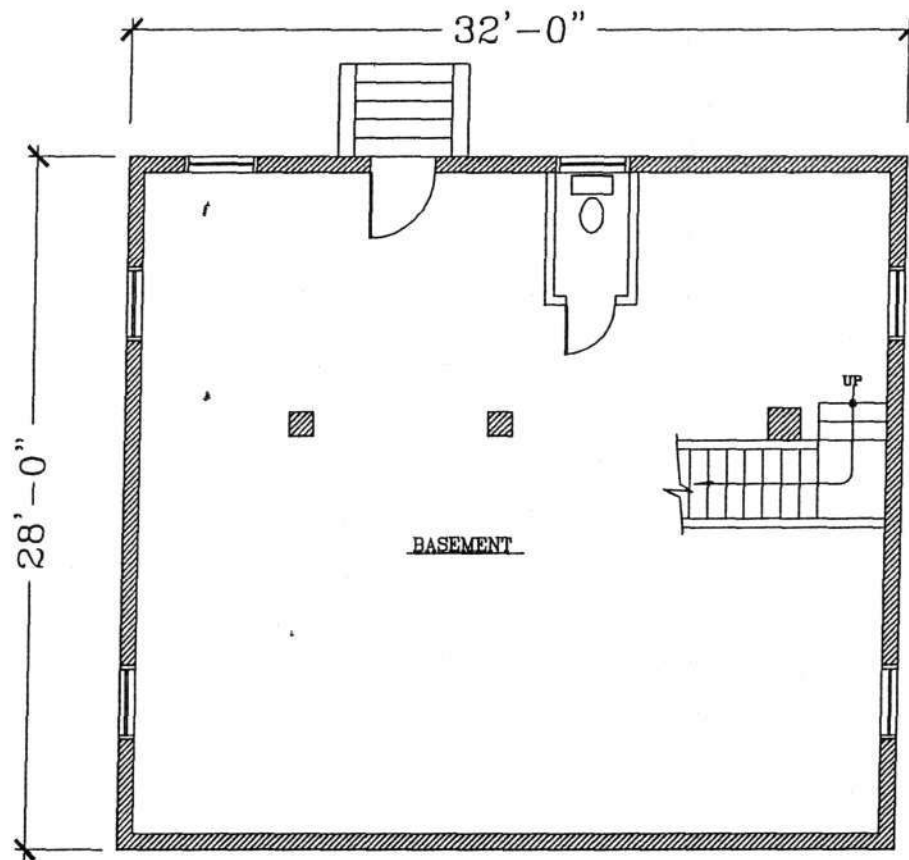


A1

DATE
BY
CHECKED
DATE

R.L. LITTEN & ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS
300 CHARLES STREET, SUITE 4
P.O. BOX 1920, LA PLATA, MD 20646 (301) 934-1471

REICH HOUSE
209 WASHINGTON AVE.
LA PLATA, MARYLAND



BASEMENT PLAN

A3

11
11/1/2003
08-46

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P.O. BOX 1920, LAPLATA, MD 20646 (301) 934-1471

REICH HOUSE

209 WASHINGTON AVE.
LA PLATA, MARYLAND

CH-754

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Inventory No. CH-754

Section 8 Page 1

Elinor and Lee Reich House

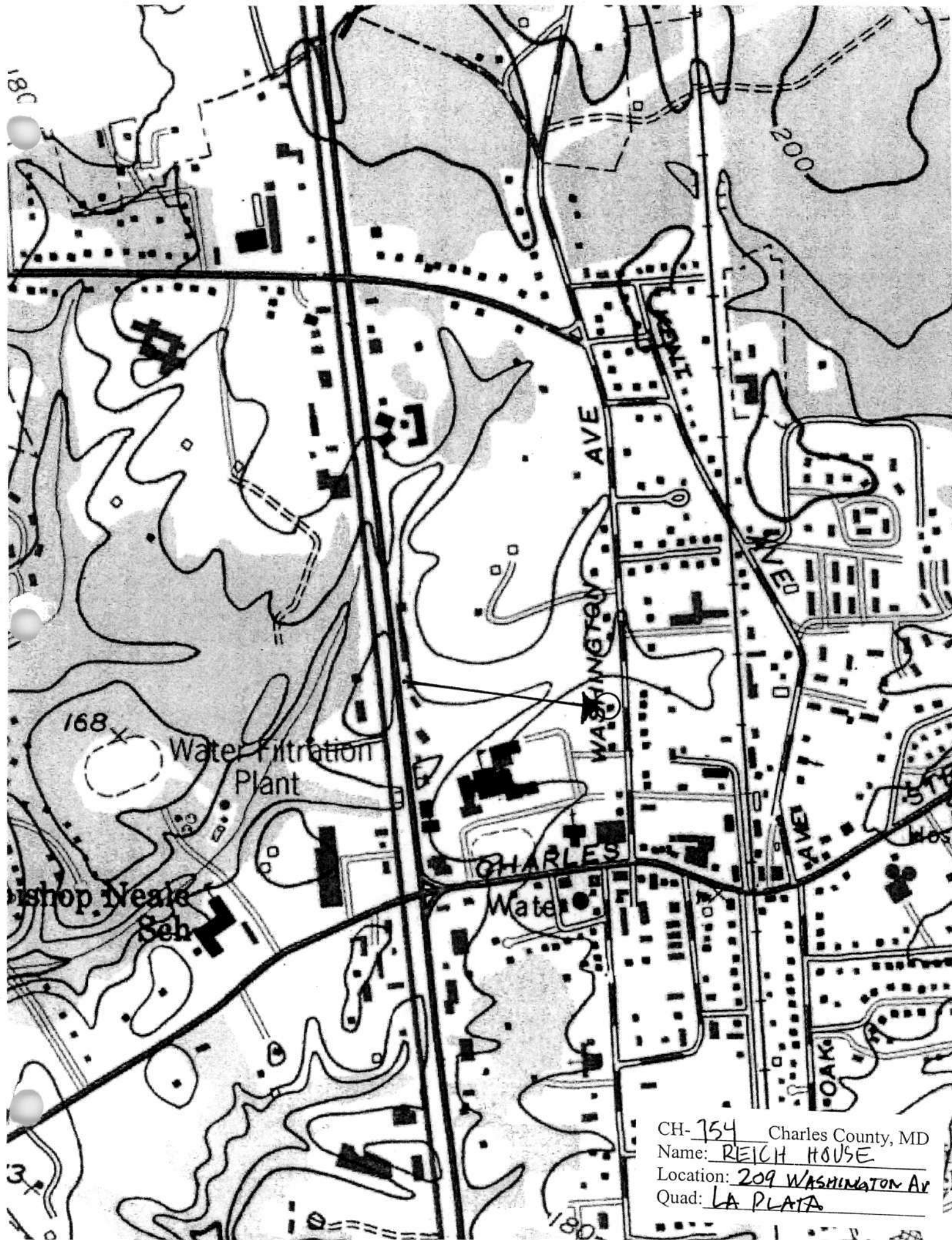
name of property

Charles County, MD

county and state

Chain of Title:

- 2002 John M. Gyorda, Jr. and Patricia S. Gyorda to the Commissioners of Charles County, Maryland. .711 of an acre.
3503/173
- 1971 Loraine T. Johnson and Ethel P. Somers, Executors of the Estate of Elinor G. J. Reich (Will Records of Charles County, MD Liber G.C.W. 28/329), to John M. Gyorda, Jr. and Patricia S. Gyorda, his wife. .711 of an acre. Buildings and improvements.
243/544
- 1956 *Elinor G. J. Reich, widow, to The Charles County Board of Education. .5 of an acre from Lot No. 1 and 1.26 acres including all of Lot No. 2.*
123/42
- 1937 *Mary A. Posey, widow of Adrian Posey, to R.H Lee Reich and Elinor G. J. Reich. Lot No. 1 1.26 acres. Buildings and improvements.*
65/251
- 1933 R.H Lee Reich and Elinor G. J. Reich to the State Roads Commission, acting for the State of Maryland. Land for public road recorded in Plat 537.
57/36
- 1928 Mary A. Posey, widow of Adrian Posey, to R.H. Lee Reich and Elinor G. J. Reich, his wife. 1.2 acres. Lot No. 2 Buildings and Improvements thereupon erected made or being. Being a subdivision of the entire tract conveyed to Mary Posey from Adrian Posey in 1902 (BGS 13/147)
48/665



CH-754 Charles County, MD
Name: REICH HOUSE
Location: 209 WASHINGTON Av
Quad: LA PLATA



CH-754

ELINOR & LEE REICH HOUSE
CHARLES CO, MD

C. HARDY 10/2002
MD SHPO

LOOKING NW

109



CH 754

REICH HOUSE

CHARLES CO, MD

C. HARDY 10/02

MD SHPO

DOOR DETAIL

2 of 9



CH-754
REICH HOUSE
CHARLES CO, MD
C. HARDY 10/02
MD SHPO
PORCH DETAIL
30F9



CH-754

REICH HOUSE
CHARLES CO, MD
C. HARDY
MD SHPB 10/02
NORTH ELEV.
4 of 9



CH-754

REICH HOUSE

CHARLES CO, MD

C. HARDY

MD SHPO 10/02

REAR ELEV.

5049



CH 754

REICH HOUSE

CHARLES CO, MD

C. HARDY

MD SHPO 10/02

N. ELEVATION

60F9



CH-754

REICH HOUSE

CHARLES CO, MD

C. HARDY 10/02

MD SHPO

GARAGE & SHED

70F9



CH-754
REICH HOUSE
CHARLES CO, MD
C. HARDY
MD SHPO 10/02
#1 STAIR DETAIL 8 of 9



CH-754

REICH HOUSE

CHARLES CO, MD

C. HARDY 10/02

MD SHPO

*MANTLE, PARLOR

9 OF 9